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In page 51, is an entry of a grant of a certain part of the aqueduct from the mayor and commons, to the Abbot and Convent of the Friars Preachers in perpetual alms, beginning within the walls at the New Gate, near the house of William Clark, and allowing the said friars to join their *pipe* to the citizens *pipe*, with a free transit of the said pipe through the land of the citizens to their house, provided that the pipe, where it joined the house, should not be so large that the little finger of a man could be inserted, and that it should never be made larger. This deed is witnessed by Luke, Archbishop of Dublin, who died in 1255.

1287—16 Edw. I. The mayor, &c, granted to Sir Richard de Exeter, (afterwards Dexter,) a certain portion of water, that is of a pipe equal to the size of a goose quill, and also to their fellow citizen Henry le Marshall, for the convenience of himself and his neighbours dwelling near him; that he should be allowed, at his own expense, to attach a pipe to theirs, near the corner which led to *Kilmaholmok's-street*, to conduct the water to his house, near the Church of the Holy Trinity, into his cistern or reservoir; but the pipe not to exceed the grossness of a goose quill.

1342 :—This year is a grant to Master Walter de Istelep, of right to affix a pipe of the size of a goose quill, to the cistern in High-street, near St. Michael's Church, at 6d. per annum, during his life, and his heirs, and afterwards to pay 2s. at two terms, Easter and Michaelmas.

1329 :—3 Edw. III. A grant to Nicholas Fastolf, and Cecilia his wife, that they might have a pipe from the cistern of Master Walter de Istelep, in the parish of St. Nicholas, to their house, to be carried along the middle of *Rochetis-street*, not to exceed the size of a goose quill.

Thus early did the anxiety to possess a supply of wholesome water for the citizens of Dublin, induce ingenious and patriotic individuals to suggest, and the corporation to adopt and execute a plan for an artificial aqueduct for that important purpose, how long previously to the reign of Henry the Second is not known, but it has certainly existed six hundred years, while that of the New River which supplies London, is scarcely two hundred years old. The proximity of the mountainous district to Dublin gives facilities to such an undertaking; but our English fellow subjects are not likely to give us credit for so great a refinement in comfort, at the very early age the citizens of Dublin proposed it. The minute particularization that the pipe should not exceed the size of a goose quill, indicates that it was always flowing, and the value put upon it.

I hope I have not tried your patience by the prolixity of this statement; I might have taken a hint to limit the flowing of my goose quill. Wishing you that success your Miscellany is so well entitled to; and rejoicing that one work exists within the reach of the lower orders, free from political taint, and sectarian bias, calculated to improve their morals, and inform their understandings—which all may read with advantage, I am, Sir, your well wisher,

W. BETHAM, *Ulster*.

#### JOHN LE DECER, MAYOR OF DUBLIN.

As connected with the subject of the preceding valuable article of our esteemed correspondent, we add the following extract from "The Annals of Ireland," given in Gough's Camden, Vol. IV. p. 481.

"MCCCVIII. This year a marble cistern was made to receive the water from the conduit head in Dublin, (such as was never before seen here,) by the Mayor of the City, Master John Le Decer, and all at his own expense."

In justice to the memory of this excellent magistrate, who though not a lord had at least the heart of one, we add, from the same Annals, the following additional instances of his patriotic munificence.

"This same John, a little before, caused a bridge to be built over the river Aven Liffie, near the Priory of St. Wolstan. He also built the Chapel of St. Mary of the Friars Minors, wherein he was buried; and the Chapel of St. Mary of the Hospital of St. John, in Dublin.

"The said John Decer was a liberal benefactor to the Convent of Friars Preachers, in Dublin: he made one

stone pillar in their church, and laid the great stone upon their altar, with its ornaments.

"He entertained the friars at his own table on the 6th day of every week, out of pure charity; as the seniors have reported to their juniors.

"MCCCXIII. This summer Master John Decer, a citizen of Dublin, caused a bridge to be built, which was very necessary, reaching from the town of Ballybogh to the causeway of the mill-pool of Clontarf, which before was a very dangerous passage: but after great charge the whole bridge, with its arches, was washed down by an inundation.

Harris the historian adds, that "It is also recorded in the registry of the Dominicans of Dublin, that this generous magistrate, in a time of great scarcity, raised a vast sum of money, and furnished out three ships to France, which returned in two months laden with corn, and that he bestowed one of the ship's loading on the Lord Justice and militia, another on the Dominican and Augustin seminaries, and reserved a third for the exercise of his own hospitality and bounty. At the same time the Prior of Christ Church, being destitute of corn, and having no money to buy it, sent to the worthy mayor a pledge of plate to the value of £40., but he returned the plate, and sent the prior a present of twenty barrels of corn. These beneficent actions," Harris adds, "moved the Dominicans to insert the following prayer in their liturgy, viz. :—*Orate pro Salute Majores, ballivorum, et communitates de omni civitate Dublinensi, optimorum benefactorum huic ordini tuo, nunc et in hora mortis.*"

"This John Le Decer, filled the office of Mayor of the City, in the years 1308, 1309, and 1324."

P.

#### ENTHUSIASM.

FOR THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL.

Not yet trodden under wholly,

Not yet darkened,

Oh! my spirit's flickering lamp art thou!

Still, alas! thou wanest—though but slowly;

And I feel as though my heart had hearkened

To the whispers of Despondence now.

Yet the world shall not enthrall me—

Never! never!—

On my briary pathway to the grave

Shapes of pain and peril may appal me,

Agony and ruin may befall me;

Darkness and dismay may hover ever;

But, cold world! I will not die thy slave!

Underneath my feet I trample

You, ye juggles—

Pleasure, passion, thirst of power, and gold!

Shall I, dare I, shame the bright example

Beaming, burning in the deeds and struggles

Of the consecrated few of old?

Sacred flame—which art eternal!

O, bright Essence!

Thou, Enthusiasm!—forsake me not.

Oh! though life be reft of all her vernal

Beauty, ever let thy magic presence

Shed its glory round my clouded lot.

CLARENCE.

#### ANCIENT MONASTIC SEALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL.

SIR,—I take the liberty of observing, that your highly talented correspondent, P., must be, in my mind, mistaken in his observations concerning the Monastic Seal, in the 51st number of your Journal, not only as regards the Saint, to whom the abbey, of which M. was abbot, were dedicated, but also with respect to the date—he asserting that the abbey were dedicated to the Virgin, and assigning the seal to correspond with the style of workmanship of the latter period of the 13th century—from both of which opinions I beg leave to dissent.

In the first place, the Virgin Mary, even at the present day, is ranked as superior to all saints, and her name, at that remote period, certainly never expressed without the ad-